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# VICK'S

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

## MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

Vick Publishing Co.  
Fifty Cents Per Year.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JULY, 1895.

{ Volume 18, No. 9.  
New Series.

"And the hyacinth, purple, and white, and blue,  
Which flung from its bells a sweet peal anew  
Of music so delicate, soft and intense,  
It was felt like an odour within the sense."

—Shelley.

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# VICK'S MAGAZINE.

Vol. 18.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JULY, 1895.

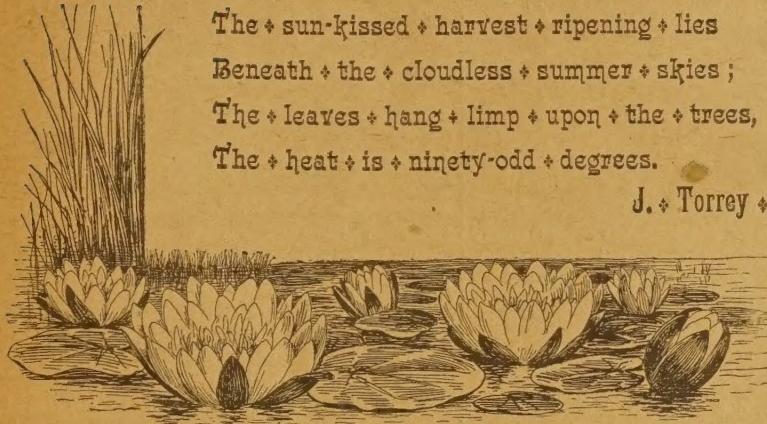
No. 9

## THE HARVEST MONTH.

The + summer + green + is + growing + ripe,  
The + sultry + July + days + are + here ;  
Where + nodded + roses, + white + and + red,  
The + fading + blossoms + droop + each + head.

The + sun-kissed + harvest + ripening + lies  
Beneath + the + cloudless + summer + skies ;  
The + leaves + hang + limp + upon + the + trees,  
The + heat + is + ninety-odd + degrees.

J. + Torrey + Connor.



### FLORAL DECORATIONS.

**T**HE floral decorations for a wedding, reception, lunch or tea, form fully as important an item as the menu. A most effective center-piece for a dinner table is a little lake with exquisite water lilies afloat.

A unique piece seen at a recent social gathering was a basket in the shape of a straw hat, silvered and mounted on a tripod. This was filled to overflowing with Mermel roses and their foliage; the effect was most charming.

At a recent reception one of the dressing rooms was a symphony in red. The room was flooded with a rosy-hued light, the pleasing atmospheric effect resulting from the handsome red shade of the lamp. A large mirror reflected the pervading hues of the apartment, the frame being gracefully draped with a large red crepe shawl, heavily fringed. Red carnations in abundance were used for decorations.

Among the new center-pieces for dinners is a tiny lake with a small fountain playing in the center. Two silver swans are on the lake, and around it is green moss and vines.

Flowers are no longer massed together as they once were. While calling at a beautiful home in California I was pleased, and at the same time surprised, to see a dozen varieties of flowers in as many different vases. The glorious California poppies, whose sheen no artist can put on canvas, were in a large glass bowl where the sun's rays fell on them. They brought

to mind Rose Harwick Thorpe's poem dedicated to them :

Flower of the westland, with calyx of gold,  
Swung in the breeze and lace woven sod,  
Filled to the brim with the glory of God,—  
All that the wax-petaled chalice can hold;  
This was the birth of it on the brown plain,  
The sun dropped a kiss in the footprint of rain.

The modest little violets, which are such a favorite everywhere, were carelessly arranged in low, quaint shaped little glasses with an abundance of their own foliage. Beautiful roses with long stems were gracefully arranged in tall slender glasses. Pansies in all their glory, varying from a golden yellow to a royal purple and velvety black, were laid in flat dishes on a bed of green vines and leaves. Then there were carnations, Camellia Japonica, cosmos, etc., each flower showing off to the best advantage. It was truly a study for an artist.

Baskets and shells make admirable receptacles for flowers. A large silver dish is most effective when filled with pink flowers and green leaves or vines.

Sweet peas and mignonette should always be grouped together. While sweet peas are pretty arranged alone, the two together are an improvement. There is no more picturesque and effective decoration for a summer luncheon or dinner than maiden-hair ferns. Have the dining room profusely decorated with this graceful fern and let the menu so far as possible be in green and white.

Fern dishes are much more reasonable than ever before, so nearly every one can afford at

least one. When filled with the lovely growing maiden-hair nothing can be more effective or refreshing.

Tall Chinese vases which can be placed on the floor in corners or near the mantel are much liked for large, long-stemmed flowers. A pretty rose vase is of pale green glass.

Natural effects and an absence of conventionality should characterize the arrangement of flowers at all seasons and in all places.

Simplicity is the cry of the hour in floral decorations as in house furnishing, and the most delightful entertainments are those where carelessness, grace and simplicity are combined.

The Farleyense fern is very popular for table decorations. Around the candelabra in the center of the table a wreath is frequently made of this fern, which is coarser than the maiden-hair and liked better by some. Through this heavy wreath are allowed to peep exquisite roses fastened in wet moss—Gen. Jacqueminot, American Beauty, Caroline Testout, Catherine Mermet, La France and Perle des Jardins all answer admirably for this purpose. Wild flowers prettily arranged make quite as satisfactory decorations as the cultivated ones; in fact wild flower luncheons were quite the rage last year, and bid fair to be this.

In the way of souvenirs nothing can be more dainty and attractive than tiny baskets of flowers with bows of ribbon tied on the handle.

CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

### POLEMONIUM REPTANS.

**T**HIS plant, sometimes called Greek valerian, is of the family of the phloxes, but it has little outward resemblance to them. It is a fine hardy native herbaceous perennial, very easy to grow and increasing rapidly if divided and reset at suitable intervals. All it asks is to be kept clean from grass and weeds, and a clump of it will endure forever perhaps,—many years at least.

It grows only in wet places when wild, but is perfectly healthy in dry garden soil. Some call it for-get-me-not, but it is very different from the real plant of that name (*Myosotis*). There is a dense mat of dark green finely cut foliage three inches deep by the time the crocus is in bloom; thousands of curving compound leaves two inches long, having seven or nine small, smooth leaflets, make a solid mass of foliage very neat and pretty. In May the flowers come in a large cluster on stems a foot long, but far from erect. The blue or purple flowers are mostly drooping, bell-shaped and scentless, opening a few at a time. Some dealers sell it, but I imagine it is little grown. It is, however, well worth a place in the hardy perennial border, and it would be a good plant for edging large beds, it is so hardy and permanent. It seeds, no doubt, in the swamps, but never in the garden that I ever saw.

E. S. GILBERT.

**"THE HUNTING GROUND."**

the whites, famed as a favorite hunting resort for the Indians, and in later years has also been known as the Perrine grant, from the fact that a township of land here was granted by the government to Dr. Henry E. Perrine sometime in the thirties for the establishment of a tropical nursery and the introduction of rare tropical and semi-tropical exotic trees, plants and fruits. Dr. Perrine was then U. S. Consul at Yucatan. He moved to Florida and at once commenced to introduce and naturalize rare plants and fruits. The Seminoles at this time were very troublesome, and the war breaking out, Dr. Perrine was obliged to move with his family to Indian Key, where they considered themselves safe, as the Key is many miles from the mainland. But early one morning in June a large body of Indians in canoes made a descent on the little island and massacred most of the inhabitants, Dr. Perrine among them; but during his one or two years' residence he introduced hundreds of rare plants. Most of these perished through neglect or by the act of vandals, but a few yet remain—some of which I will mention later,—living monuments to Dr. Perrine's memory.

"The Hunting Ground" is twenty miles south of Miami, near the post office of Cutler,—the most southerly post office on the mainland of the United States,—and consists of pine lands, hommocks and swamps. There is no record of the time of the first settlement here, but there is indisputable evidence that the little harbor or cove was a place of resort or refuge of the Buccaneers, those terrible sea pirates, and that they had a settlement at the head of a little creek that enters into the bay here. Many old relics can yet be found in this field; I myself have found small cannonballs, encrusted with rust. Another evidence of ancient settlement was the number of cultivated fruits, found growing wild by the first settlers when they came here.

The landing—known as Addisons—is in a most beautiful little harbor, bounded on the west by a magnificent hommock and the finest sandy beach on the bay, fringed by a very beautiful grove of cocoa palms, and to the eastward is a most lovely little gem of a key, while still some twelve miles further east can be seen the old light house at Cape Florida. The hommocks here are rich in rare plants, as also are the pine lands.

To give my readers some idea of the difference of the vegetation here compared with that of the State further north, I will say that fully nine-tenths of the different varieties of trees and plants native to this part of the State are not

found north of Lake Worth; even the Cabbage Palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*), so common to most parts of Florida, are here rather scarce and always of small size, and during the years I resided here I only found two species of trees growing here that are found in northern latitudes; these were the persimmon (*Diospyros Virginiana*) and the mulberry (*Morus rubra*), and they were exceedingly scarce. One of the first plants to attract ones attention is the *Zamia integrifolia*, known here by the Indian name of the plant, "Coontie." Most of my readers have learned something of it as it has become very popular during the last few years as a greenhouse plant; but few, however, have any idea of the economic value of the plant to the settlers of Dade county. It is not found outside of the county in any quantity, and here only in the better quality of pine lands and the outer edges of the hommocks. The leaves resemble those of the *Cycas revoluta*, very glossy and of firm texture, and I have seen hundreds of acres covered with its lovely growth of foliage two feet high—a sight long to be remembered. Though it does not grow in the dense hommocks, the finest plants are always found at the edge of the hommocks, growing in half shade, where the fronds attain a great size, sometimes two or three feet in length. The "coontie" and the starch made from it has always been the main source of support of the settlers. A good many of the people grow pine apples, tomatoes and egg plants for the New York market, but owing to poor transportation and the great distance, it is a risky business and frequently does not pay expenses, and then the settler is thankful that he has his "coontie" patch to fall back on,—a crop planted by nature and one that never fails and always finds a ready sale in the Key West markets. When the first settlers landed on the shores of Biscayne Bay they found the Indians digging great rough looking roots of a plant which they called "coontie," and which by a rude process they manufactured into the finest starch, and as the country will not produce crops of northern cereals the settlers were not long in learning how to make the starch. The roots though of slow growth attain a large size, and are very rough and dark colored on the outside, with white flesh, the juice of which, as in some species of cassava, is poisonous. In digging the roots the settler uses a narrow hoe or pick and is always careful to leave the lower part of the root in the ground; this sprouts and in time makes another root—seven years is the estimated time required for the root to get large enough to dig again. After the roots are dug and the tops cut off they are hauled to the mill, where they are run between cylinders filled with short teeth, which grates the them into fine pulp. The pulp is then placed in a hopper, the bottom of which is covered with a fine sieve; this is then placed over a large vat and the starch washed out by water, and the pulp thrown aside to be used afterwards as a mulch for fruit trees. After allowing time for the starch to settle, the water is drawn off and the starch is found in a thick layer at the bottom of the vat. The very best quality, which is as white as snow, is found at the bottom of this layer; this is separated from

the inferior, and carefully dried on frames covered with cheese cloth, and is sold for the highest price for table use, as we use corn starch, though for puddings, etc., it is superior to the best corn starch. The darker and inferior grades are dried in the same manner and sold for laundry purposes. The demand in Key West is fully equal to the supply and it always brings a good price, six to ten cents or more per pound, as the people of Key West will use no other starch if they can get "coontie."

Another and not the least use of this valuable plant to the settler, is the water from the several washings of the starch; this is a most excellent fertilizer, much better than can be bought. Unless crops are fertilized on the sandy lands nothing is raised, so it will be seen that this water is valuable to the settler who always has his little garden, truck patch or orchard of tropical trees around his "coontie" mill, and the washings are carefully saved and applied to the growing crops. Such is the value of these washings as a fertilizer that places which were formerly sites of starch mills, long since abandoned, can always be told by the increased growth of vegetation. Thus this wonderful root not only furnishes the settler with the money to buy his flour and meat and other necessities of life and also the basis of many delicious dishes, but also furnishes him with the fertilizer necessary to grow his fruit and vegetables, and without which he could not grow them, as he rarely has the means to buy expensive commercial fertilizers. It is a fact that, from the earliest settlement of the Biscayne country, over nine-tenths of the people have been dependent, directly or indirectly, on this plant for support,—a veritable "staff of life" to them.

The bloom of the "coontie" is very interesting,—like a great pine cone, though flattened on top, with diamond-shaped marks on its surface, almost as if stamped out of rich maroon velvet. When ripe the seed vessels burst open and scatter the large scarlet seeds, and these are greedily eaten by the crows, which are therefore known as "coontie birds." The original plant dies after blooming, but there are always young plants to take its place, offsprings of the old root.

One of the most interesting spots of the "Hunting Ground" to me was a little hommock not over three or four acres in extent, of the densest growth, but a veritable mine of wealth to the plant lover. It was very rocky and had great chasms and sinks,—one in particular was a natural well over twenty feet deep and as round and perfect as if dug by man, always with the purest of water at the bottom; it was one of the greatest natural curiosities I ever saw, and has no equal in Florida.

MARTIN BENSON.

**INCARVILLEA DELAVAYI.**—This plant has been shown at a recent horticultural exhibition in London and received a first class certificate. It belongs to the Bignonia order and one can imagine the form and size of the flowers by referring to the well known climber of our gardens, the Trumpet flower, *Bignonia* or *Tecoma radicans*. This plant, however, is not a climber, but an erect herbaceous perennial, having beautiful rose-colored flowers, very much like a gloxinia in shape. It is a native of China and it is thought to be hardy; if so it will be much in demand.

## THE BLOOMING OF THE LILY.

SEPTEMBER 7th, 1894—this makes the third night—or rather evening—that I have gone out to Shaw's garden hoping to see the royal water lily, the Victoria regia, bloom. You know what it is, don't you? If you don't you can look it up.

The papers have been telling wondrous tales about it, how it would magically rise and spring asunder, a huge creamy bloom, quite as if Flora had availed herself of the recent inventions in electricity. Each petal, they said, would fly back one at a time as if an electric button had been touched.

I was quite in a fever about it, and went last Sunday, but saw only the enormous leaves floating on the water, and a great round bud pretty far down in the water. The gardener said he thought it would be in bloom Tuesday or Wednesday. Tuesday it streamed rain so that I couldn't go, and when I tore out there Wednesday 'twas only to find it bloomed and gone

takes about half an hour to ride out there—ten or twelve miles—and this time we were kept waiting at the railroad for trains to pass, so the sun was down when I went into the garden. But I hurried to the pond, and there was a great, beautiful bud standing in the midst of the immense floating leaves and showing the white of the petals through the four-parted calyx. I could see it when far away, and when I came within ten feet of the pond I caught a strong whiff of the fragrance which the papers had so much to say about. It was more like the scent of May-apple blossom than anything else.

I took my stand on the edge of the basin—they have the water artificially heated—and waited in silent exultation. There were five or six others there; a photographer with his camera, and presently the artist came hurrying up. We all waited.

It was a lovely evening; the sky was bright with sunset, and the lily's extraordinary leaves swung slowly now and then on the dark, clear

A sharp-edged hoe wielded by a pliant arm can do much towards keeping the garden clean, but supple fingers always come into play more or less.

It is a great convenience to have the garden laid out so the rows of vegetables can extend to considerable length, and a horse and cultivator be called into use. I speak of the farmer's garden. And here I want to remark that one of the very best implements to use among the garden crops for the first time going over them is a fine-toothed harrow, made in cultivator form, with handles to guide close up to the peas and other vegetables. This implement is invaluable in the cultivation of strawberries; it can be run close up to the plant and it stirs the ground, thoroughly uprooting small weeds and grass, leaves the surface even and level, and does not have the fault of throwing the earth on small plants, covering them up, as does the cultivator.

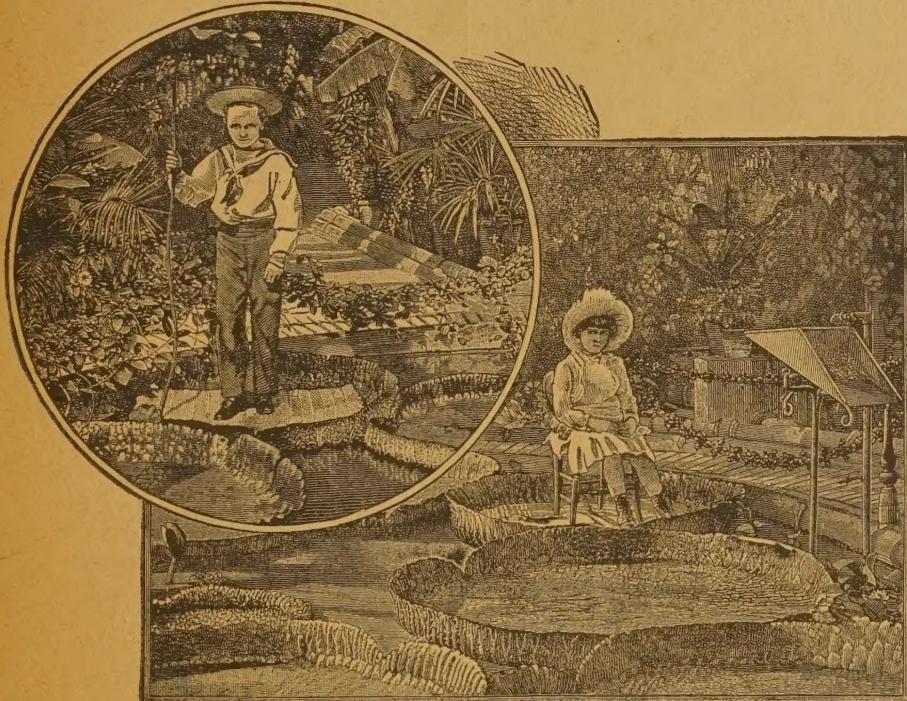
But few farmers make a practice of getting two crops from the same plot. Often this can be done to good advantage. As soon as the early peas have been used, remove the vines, spade the ground and rake in some good fertilizer and sow to flat turnip or radish; or if the strawberry bed is to be renewed, by making calculations accordingly to have the bed in a corner where it will least interfere in cultivating the garden for the time the plat will be in strawberries, ample time will be had to mature the peas; spade up the ground and give it a good dressing of compost, wood ashes and bone, and set to strawberries early in August.

Of course every garden has at least two varieties of beets for table use. I always sow the Early Egyptian turnip beet for summer and fall use; it is not a good keeper, as it becomes woody with age. This is one of the best beets for forcing; it is very early, grows smooth and very shapely and has a small top with very dark red leaf stems. For the other variety, if I cultivated but two, it would be Dewing's Early Blood Turnip beet; this grows to good size and is a good keeper for winter use. And here I will say a word as to thinning these kinds—the Egyptian may be left to stand twice as thickly in the row as the other sort named. The Dewing needs seven or eight inches between plants.

I might have said that a portion of the ground which grew the early peas or potatoes—for the latter crop may be out of the ground by the middle of July—may be profitably set to celery. This crop is usually made to succeed some earlier crop by the professional gardener, and where good strong plants are used may be set as late as the 10th of August, but it is better usually—local climate determining mainly—to have them set earlier.

Speaking of strawberries reminds me to say that to have a good yield of fruit we must plow and co-operate with the plants the year before. To have the beds yield well next year give them all the growth possible this season. They form the germs for fruiting next year this season and yield in proportion to the growth made; so as soon as this season's crop is gathered, plow or spade up the soil between the rows, applying a little nitrate of soda and cut bone to induce the plant to send out new roots and make all the growth possible.

L. F. ABBOTT.



down to make a seed-pod. It had bloomed Monday.

I was very angry with the gardener, but another bud was in sight and was booked for Friday. I made up my mind at once to come out on Thursday, too, for fear of being left again. When Nature's "calm intent" is worked by electricity we may well be on the *qui vive*.

So I made up my mind to come out Thursday, and told a young art-student who was watching there too, of my intention. He had his camp-stool and other paraphernalia, as he had been sketching out there somewhere in the wood. He showed me the lotus and other flowers, but advised me not to come out Thursday. I went, however, and found the bud only about an inch above the surface. I was disappointed, but went home and rested well that night, which I shouldn't have done had I not gone out.

And when work was over this evening, off I flew again to Chestnut street, thirteen blocks away, and took the cars for the garden. It

water. The art student and I dropped into talk, and I found it vastly pleasanter to wait for the "silken burst of sound" when I had some one to talk to. I may say at once, though, that there was no such burst nor any flying back of petals as it bloomed. But we could see the great bud swell visibly; the calyx turned slowly back and the petals gave a little fluff-up where they come together at the top, and then slowly opened into a great splendid white lily.

It was very beautiful, this blooming of the big white tropical flower at that twilight time. I shall always remember it with joy. S. A. B.

## IN THE GARDEN.

SOMETIMES think the poetry of gardening is in the planning, laying out and planting the seed in spring. For when June and July, with the fervid heat and warm showers come upon us, to keep down the hordes of weeds that spring up, seemingly spontaneously, is in very truth the prose of garden work. But the prose must be endured if we would have the poetry.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PINNATE FROM THE SIMPLE LEAF.**

DUPPLICATION is a law of nature which underlies all individuality. As far back as the mind can reach, even in speculation, the multiplicity of organisms has come about through the duplication of pre-existing forms. The bit of unorganized, undifferentiated protoplasm divides and other individual portions are the outcome. The monera, the amoeba, give off a part of themselves and by this duplication maintain their individuality.

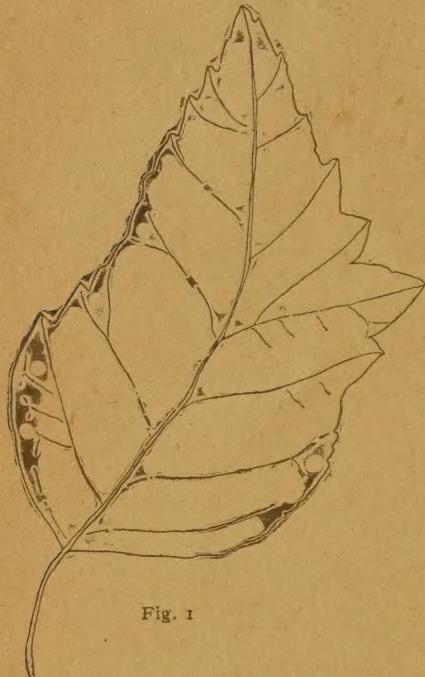


Fig. 1

With this formulative law in mind, let us look at some pinnate leaves of our forest trees. If we ask the leaves of the walnut, the hickory, the ash, etc., how it came about that they are pinnate, they answer, by the continual division of the single, simple leaf, or *leaf-branching*. If we observe the leaves of the young walnut tree we find this answer confirmed. Instead of the long frond-like leaf, of many leaflets, we find the simple leaf, or two or three leaflets only, and

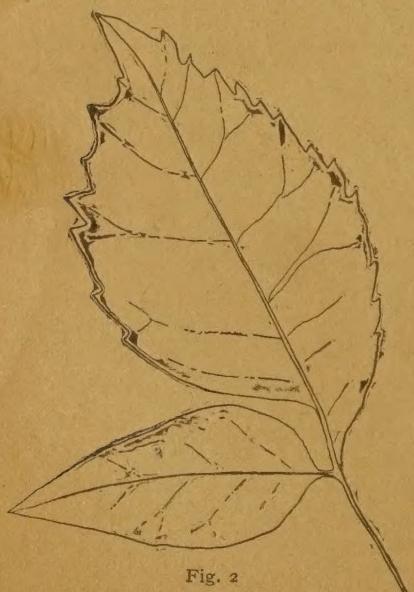


Fig. 2

these frequently are obviously transition forms, that is, the single leaflet (or the terminal leaflet,

if there is more than one) is often found in process of division, or, as different individuals have claimed, "as if two leaves had grown together," when in reality it is one leaf becoming two.

Often, too, we find growing on old trees leaves which are neither even- nor odd-pinnate, but occupying what we might designate as the embryonic condition preceding the birth of a new leaflet.



Fig. 3

Among the leaves of the white ash I have found some exceedingly interesting variations. One is tempted to compare the efforts of the ash leaves at leaf-division or leaf-branching, to the early attempts of children in learning to walk. How many uncertain, awkward steps are taken before the muscles are capable of doing their perfect work. And so, in the early days of the ash tree I fancy it grew some awkward shapes in its efforts at multiplication of its foliage. But these crude efforts, these blunders, indicate to us the path over which our perfect leaves have passed. The primitive ash tree, without

At Fig. 1 we see the single leaf, large, and irregularly toothed; several of these teeth seem as if they were embryonic leaflets.

At Fig. 2 one branch or leaflet has been formed or given off from the mother leaf.

Fig. 3 is an awkward step; an abnormal leaf certainly, but it is a valuable link in our chain, showing more clearly than the symmetrically formed leaf the process of development which results in the formation of the perfect leaf.

Fig. 4 is also an ungainly specimen; the attempt here to develop three leaflets is crude indeed. The purpose is obvious, but the execution is yet defective, imperfect.



Fig. 5

Fig. 5 represents two well-formed leaflets with two others still in embryo, as it were, and prophetic of their future. How plainly they demonstrate that the numerous leaflets are but the branches, the duplication, the off-spring, indeed, of the simple, primitive leaf.



Fig. 4

doubt, bore simple leaves. It is not uncommon to find these simple leaves even now, and it is interesting to note that they are often quite conspicuously notched or toothed. Gray says, in his description of the leaves of this ash, "they are either toothed or entire." In these abnormal leaves, while the large ones are often toothed, those newly given off, or the young leaf-branched, are mostly entire. This fact is in harmony with the idea that *the indenture of the leaf margin is the initiative step in leaf-branching*.

As "words but half reveal" the truth one would feign convey, I beg leave to call upon the leaves themselves to substantiate the assertions I have made concerning them.



Fig. 6

In Fig. 6 we are nearing the normal type, but it must yet make many trials before it can be legitimately classed with the typical leaves of the present.

Fig. 7 is both interesting and curious. The two lower leaflets and the terminal one are fairly well shaped, while the two others are still

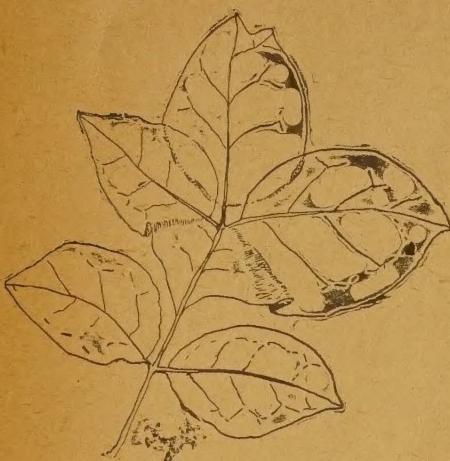


Fig. 7

united with the base of the mother leaf, showing clearly that the leaflets are evolved from the single leaf.

Various intermediate gradations might be given, but these few extreme cases have been selected as best illustrating their manner of evolution from the simple to the compound leaf.



NORMAL FORM OF LEAF OF WHITE ASH.

There are very many other pinnate leaves which are equally interesting and which show conclusively how the single leaf of long ago has become the compound leaf of the present.

Columbus, Ohio. MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN.

#### EARLY VEGETABLES.

NOW is the season for crisp, tender, delicious lettuce. The garden lettuce is supposed to be a native of the East Indies, but it is impossible to locate it in a wild state anywhere. Good seed of any tender, delicate hard heading variety should be sown in hot-bed and transplanted, when about an inch in height, to two inches apart. When set out in open ground

leave space to cultivate with the hoe around each plant and see if it does not emulate cabbage in size, sweetness and solidity. To raise it outdoors, as early in spring as the ground can be worked spade up a bed in the sunniest part of the garden, incorporate well rotted manure until it forms a rich compost; plant just before a shower if possible, as it will sprout more quickly.

For late use sow seed thickly in drills and cut when a few inches high. Make frequent plantings in order to have it sweet, crisp and tender.

We have an economical way of preparing it for the table which is valuable because of its being simple, reliable, and almost every one has material in the house to prepare it. By "economical" I do not mean a system of stinting or cheapskating, but the use of what one has, so that the best possible results may be attained. The recipe in question has been so often asked for and so highly complimented, it has thereby impressed me

"The turnpike road to people's hearts, I find,  
Is through their mouths, or I mistake mankind."

#### DELICIOUS LETTUCE SALAD.

Shred the lettuce as you do cabbage for slaw. For an ordinary sized dish of salad take one-half cup of cream, one-half teaspoon each of mustard and salt, and one teaspoon sugar; mix these ingredients and add enough vinegar to thicken to the consistency of cream. Remember cream will not curdle when used with acid, but milk will. A few moments before bringing to the table pour on the dressing and mix thoroughly with the lettuce. Garnish with slices of hard boiled egg.

The salad will be charming to look upon and not more delightful to the eye than delicious to the taste. The recipe is strictly American and will be welcome to the rank and file of excellent cooks who regard sauces—Hollandaise and Mayonnaise—with somewhat of the feeling that animated the lady who, when asked her opinion of Herodotus, believing the historian to be some kind of a pudding, innocently inquired, "Do you make it with eggs?"

In practicing the fine art of every-day-living there are occasions in the lives of most women where it is of more importance to be a reliable cook than an accomplished musician, and the one who has the details of a first-class breakfast, dinner or tea at her finger's ends is the one who is the most likely to be

"Mistress of herself, though the china fall."

#### RADISHES.

We sow about every two weeks from April till June. They are particularly tender and appetizing when they appear at a matutinal spring meal in the crisp freshness of the variety called French Breakfast. The turnip-shaped radishes are rivaled in earliness by the Long Scarlet Short Top; the Chartier comes later and is larger. Radish juice, mixed with sugar candy is a favorite German remedy for coughs and hoarseness.

#### ASPARAGUS.

Allow the shoots to grow three or four inches high before cutting. The Mammoth and Colossal varieties average nearly an inch in diameter. There are German ways of preparing asparagus in soup, or on French toast, but the dish most acceptable to a hungry lover of the vegetable is likely to be cooked in the following American style:

Take full length pieces as cut from the bed; wash carefully and tie in bunches of equal length; put on in salted boiling water and boil for about twenty minutes; take up the bundles with skimmer and drain; put on a warm dish, add butter and serve hot.

It is sometimes my experience to sit down as a welcome guest at a table where the social charm of friendship grows stronger for the surroundings of neatness, daintiness and good taste. And it adds zest to my excellent appetite at such times to know that the food set before me has been attended to, in every detail of its preparation, by the skilled hands of my cheerful hostess.

L. G. PATTERSON.

**LETUCE IN SUMMER.**—What are called Cos lettuces are best for summer, as the leaves are more crisp and juicy at this season than others. The Paris White Cos is one of the very best varieties.

## PURELY VEGETABLE

Is true of AYER'S Pills. They are easy to take, and equally safe and effective for young or old; they cure biliousness and liver troubles and are always reliable.

## AYER'S PILLS.

Highest Awards at World's Fair.

AYER'S THE ONLY SARSAPARILLA

ADMITTED AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

# Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK

## Rubra Begonia.

Will you please tell me through the columns of the Magazine how to treat the cane-like shoots which start up from the root of the Rubra Begonia? How or when is it best to nip or trim them in order to insure branching?

M. S. S.

S. Orleans, Mass.

Nip the shoot off near a bud where it is desired branching should take place.

## Mildew of Gooseberries.

Will you please give me a recipe for mildew on gooseberries?

C. H. A.

Eagle Harbor, Mich.

Dissolve one-half ounce of liver of sulphur, or sulphide of potash, in one gallon of water and syringe the plants and fruit with it. Gooseberry mildew is worst in very hot weather, and a partial preventive is to mulch the plants,—that is, to lay straw, hay or grass clippings on the ground underneath them to keep the ground cool. Should the mildew show itself again after the use of the sulphide solution, repeat the operation.

## Asparagus.

May I trouble you for information about the cultivation of asparagus, and give you my experience?

In the spring of 1890 we prepared a bed 8x20 feet, and sent to you for plants, which grew nicely the first and second summers. The third spring we cut sparingly from it and each year since there has been very little to cut from the bed. A few of the plants have died. I have scattered salt over it freely every spring. There are no weeds. We have covered the bed two or three inches deep with manure in the fall. The plants were laid in the rows with roots all in the same direction and covered a few inches deep with the soil. I have learned since the planting that the crown should be placed and the roots extend in all directions. If you will please tell me wherein I have failed in management and what I can do to make it productive you will greatly oblige.

E. A. T.

Elmira, N. Y.

It is probable that the failure of this bed is on account of poor planting. Apparently something is intended to be said about the depth of setting of the crown of the plant, but the sentence is incomplete and we can infer that the writer mistrusts that the planting was not properly performed. A piece of ground intended for asparagus should be deeply dug and well enriched. The plants should be set with the crown, or growing bud, upright and the roots should be spread out in every direction. Before setting the plants a trench should be dug deep enough to allow of at least four inches of soil over the crown of the plant after setting, and this, accordingly, will require the trench to be nearly or fully six inches in depth. After spreading out the roots of a plant in the bottom of the trench, draw enough soil over them to hold them in place, and then pass along to another plant, and thus to the end of the row. Then commence and fill in the whole of the soil. When this is done open another trench for the next row and proceed in the same manner. The dry weather and the frost may both have affected this poorly planted bed and made it a practical failure.

## If Baby is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

## Frost Killing Pansy Plants.

Do you think hard freezing would kill young pansy plants?

Wisconsin.

Mrs. J. S.

It depends on the condition of the plants. If they were newly set plants when the freezing occurred they might have been injured. If they were standing where they had been growing the previous season they would bear quite a hard freeze without serious injury, unless they were tender by having been covered during the winter. All depends on their condition.

## Oregon Wild Flowers.

The flora of Oregon, in the vicinity of the capital city, is extremely rich and varied. This is truly a home for flowers. Notwithstanding the high latitude many a choice buttonhole bouquet can be plucked the whole year round. I will not assert that this can be done from the wild flowers, except from the little wild daisy. But from the mildness of the climate "tame" daisies, calendulas and pansies give us a few of their bright blossoms in the open ground even in winter.

Among the wild flowers are many that are cultivated in the east as rare or novel plants. There are many that are never cultivated, to my knowledge, which are handsome enough for a place in the garden. There are trilliums and erythromums that are like little lilies! And they possess the additional good quality of being very fragrant.

The dwarf iris covers acres of ground in the forest glades, and are shaded from pale rose to intense blue. Wild hyacinths are numerous, sending up their tall spikes of bloom, which are large and handsome, not only in the forest, but in many door-yards also. The little myosotis springs up everywhere. The roadsides are blue with the flowers of the Lobelia tricolor in the hot months of summer. Purple foxgloves, with their tall spikes of bloom, are so dense and cover such large spaces that they appear as if a cloth had been spread for some festive occasion. Here is the Mimulus luteus, with its large, handsome flowers. Gillias, Clarkias, the callirhoe, and the cyclamen-like American cowslip, are each to be found in their season. But I cannot tell half of what may be seen. I wish eastern people could see the wealth of bloom.

This description, received some time since, contained no signature, though probably it may have been detached from a letter containing the name of the writer. If the writer of it should notice it we shall be pleased to have the name of the author.

## House Plants.

1—Shall I give Clerodendron Balfouri sun or shade in summer? How must it be treated in winter? I have no greenhouse, but succeed well with asparagus, palms, jasmines, genistas, etc.

2—Can you give me a list of white flowering bulbs that can be used for flowering more than one or two winters? I am very successful with freesias, have had the same bulbs in bloom two years. I can't afford to buy a number of bulbs that bloom only once.

3—Would you advise me to send for plants by mail at this time of year? Would the hot weather dry them out so that they would fail to grow?

4—Is not Calliopsis lanceolata perennial? Have taken your Magazine for years, and think it the best thing extant for flower-growers.

St. Louis, Mo.

J. M. M.

1—Give the clerodendron the benefit of the sun during the summer, for at this season it is finishing and ripening its growth. In the winter season it should have a comparatively low temperature, say about 60°, and be kept somewhat dry. By the last of February it can be given more heat and be started to grow again.

2—As for winter blooming bulbs, we do not see how anything better can be recommended than the Roman hyacinths and Paper White narcissus for early bloom, and even if these can not be used a second season their first cost is so little as to be merely nominal. The same statement will also apply to the Dutch hyacinths and other varieties of narcissus, and the lily of the valley, Anemone coronaria, ixia, varieties of oxalis, Triteelia uniflora, Zephyranthes candida and some other species, Iris Persica and I. pavonia and species of amaryllis can be employed for winter blooming.

3—Greenhouse plants can be sent by express and are safer from injury during the hot season than by mail.

4—Calliopsis, or Coreopsis lanceolata, is a valuable hardy herbaceous perennial plant.

## Plant Inquiries.

1—I have some seeds of the Filifera palm and they are growing. Can you tell me what treatment the plants should receive?

2—Should my umbrella plant have anything more than good soil, plenty of water and a south window?

3—Can you tell me why I have no success with fine seed either outdoors or in the house? I have tried watering them and keeping dry at different trials, but simply cannot grow them.

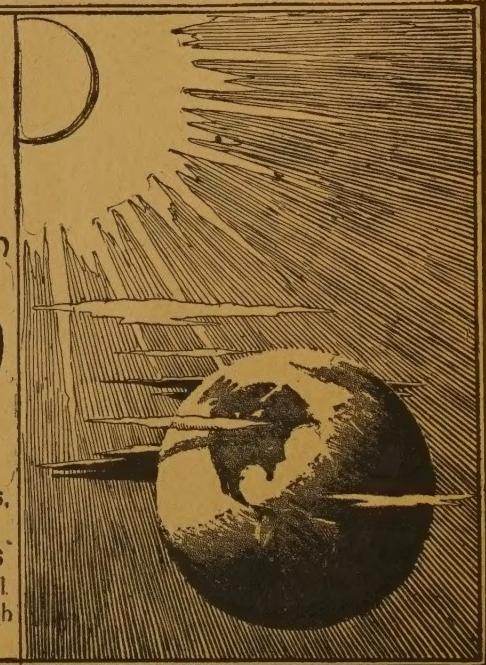
4—The water hyacinth received a few weeks ago has already grown a new sprout with separate roots. Can this be separated and grown as a separate plant?

5—Should Oxalis orthigiesi receive more than ordinary care?

LET THE  
SUN  
INTO YOUR  
BUILDINGS  
and scour them  
with  
**SAPOLIO**



Colleges, Hospitals,  
Asylums and all  
Public Institutions  
find SAPOLIO useful.  
Its cleansing is thorough  
and very quickly done.



The otaheite orange from your house has blossomed well, but has just commenced to grow.

I believe the Achania malaviscus is the most satisfactory plant I ever saw for limited accommodations. Mine has grown wonderfully. J. W. G. Glenville, Minn.

1—Young plants of palms, for the most part, require a warm temperature and a moist atmosphere. The plants do not need much root room. In potting them place them in small sized pots and do not cover the base of the stem with soil. Do not repot until the roots become crowded and then use a pot only a little larger.

2—The umbrella plant will be all right with the conditions named.

3—Care and patience, with some skill, are required to germinate fine seeds. In the first place, such seeds do not need covering with soil, or if so a slight sprinkling of sand is sufficient; in most cases it will be enough merely to press the soil, after sowing the seed, with a block with a smooth surface. Instead of sprinkling the soil afterwards in order to maintain the moisture in it, it is better to stand the pot in a dish of water and let the water rise up through the soil, thus avoiding any disturbance of the surface. It is always best to cover a pot in which fine seed has been sown, with a pane of glass. This retains the moisture.

4—The offsets from the water hyacinth should not be removed, or at least not until it has become strong.

5—Ordinary care and culture is all that this oxalis requires.

#### Raising Small Fruits.

You will be conferring a great favor to a beginner by imparting information to me which I am desirous of obtaining from a reliable source.

1—Would you consider fifty miles too great a distance to ship strawberries, red and black raspberries and gooseberries to a city market?

2—Would not the railroad take too much of the profit?

3—If not, what varieties would you advise cultivating?

4—Would not gooseberries do well set out in a large orchard?

I might add that grapes have been successfully raised on the place for years.

Portland, N. Y.

F. L. B.

The distance named is not a great one for even soft fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, etc.

As to the cost of freight, that is something which every fruit grower must figure on, and which all have to pay, as well as the charges of an agent or commission man.

We cannot well advise what kinds of fruit anyone in particular should attempt to raise. Something depends on the demand in the particular market where they are to be sent; much depends on the character of the soil where they are to be raised, and a great deal upon certain qualities in the grower which enable him to do well or poorly what he undertakes.

We do not advise gooseberries to be planted in an orchard. In such a situation they cannot be properly cultivated, and it would also interfere with proper treatment of the orchard itself, which, as we now all know, must at different times be sprayed with Paris green and with Bordeaux mixture; while gooseberries will need to be attended to with some other substances for insects and fungi.

#### DISEASES OF SWEET PEAS.

From the correspondence below it will be noticed that there is a disease which affects sweet peas, the nature of which is yet obscure. The letters come from South Dakota and Georgia, a circumstance showing that it is not local or caused by any particular kind of soil, though it is still possible that certain soils and localities may be favorable to the development of the disease.

Having made inquiries of the Rev. W. T. Hutchins, the famous sweet pea grower of this country, in regard to the subject, he has very kindly favored us with a letter making some statements about the disease which will be read with interest.

#### WHY DO MY SWEET PEAS DIE?

Can you tell me why my sweet peas die? Early this spring I purchased from you a large quantity of seed. I prepared a trench three feet wide and fourteen inches deep and filled in within six inches of the top with the very best rich soil and at the bottom and in the center put in some well rotted manure (some ten years old), none that could possibly heat. I have five rows in the trench and rows fifty feet long. I can discover no insect or worm. Every Monday I give them plenty of wash water from the laundry. I have given them in every way the best of care. Nice healthy plants have been dying all the spring and still continue to die. They commence to wilt from the top and in twenty-four hours are flat. By digging down I can find no trouble apparently with root, but I notice the plant doesn't start up again. Just at the top of the ground the stalk seems withered and shrunken and indicates in some instances a little rot, possibly.

In another trench, same dirt, care and location, I have two rows of cheap varieties, bought in store here and these do well, and not over ten plants have died in this manner, while with my choice varieties I have lost nearly half. I lost every one of my Emily Henderson. Is it the nature of the plant to die in this manner? As the plants have grown I have filled my trench and have raked into the soil considerable wood ashes. Is there something our soil lacks that makes them die? Plants seem healthy and good color until they commence to wither. We have strong winds here, but my plants are in a sheltered spot. Do you think the wind would have this effect on the plants. I am very anxious to learn why these die and I sincerely hope you can give me some remedy for it.

Aberdeen, S. D.

B. C. L.

#### SWEET PEAS DYING OUT IN SPOTS.

I am in much distress about my sweet peas. I have planted them according to directions and they are up beautifully, six long rows,—they are from fourteen to eighteen inches high, look luxuriant and fine, but are dying out in spots at irregular intervals. They die from the roots up, and when a half dead or wilted vine is pulled up it has no root whatever, but looks like a brown, dead stalk. As we are practical people here we have examined into the matter and are at a loss to account for the disaster. Moles have been credited with the destruction, but as the same thing is taking place at two other residences near here and last summer a friend in Marietta, Ga., lost her whole planting of sweet peas in the same way, I think there must be something else than moles. Do, if you can, tell me some remedy, so I may apply it at once.

Cornelia, Ga.

Mrs. M. O.

#### LETTER FROM REV. W. T. HUTCHINS.

Yours of the 6th, with letters enclosed about the sweet pea blight is received. I am sorry to say that I am very familiar with the prevailing disease which both parties write about and I have frequent letters concerning it. It is evidently growing worse and covering a wider area of country. As I am very hurried just now,—expecting to sail for Europe June 12th,—I cannot write in full at present, but will make this a subject for writing this fall. As I am going to visit Mr. Eckford and all the prominent sweet pea men in England I hope to learn something from them. My own sweet pea garden of over 1,000 feet, and on which I put constant study and unstinted work, shows the blight this year worse than ever, and the preventive means which I have relied on have largely failed. The cause would seem to be partly in our new strain of improved seed and partly in certain elements lacking in soil. Light soil is worse than heavy clay loam. Inland seems worse than the sea coast.

I think the Dakota man has begun to use wash suds

too early, and unleached ashes would be too rank for tender vines. I find my own zeal in sweet peas greatly chastened by the formidable difficulties that are rising, but expect to conquer them. The blight is of a similar nature as the mildew; the epidermis of the vine rots and gets slimy above the seed and below ground, while the root remains all right. I think it is going to be very difficult to reach it, but am hoping that something can be applied to the soil to do it. Nothing can be done now, I think, for this year.

My experience is that people become over-anxious about it, for as a rule we plant too thickly, and if we lose one-half we still have enough vines for the trellis or bushes. I will try to give the subject thorough treatment.

W. T. HUTCHINS.

Indian Orchard, Mass.

#### A WHITE MARECHAL NEIL ROSE.

WHO does not remember what a great enthusiasm was aroused in the midst of the "sixties" by the appearance of the singularly beautiful Marechal Neil rose, which is today still the queen of all yellow roses among the growers and lovers of that flower? The whole world was excited to admiration by its beauty and grace. After admiring it for years, there arose the very natural wish for a white Niel, and how all lovers of flowers will rejoice to know that, after thirty years, their wish is destined to meet fulfillment in the near future.

Under my care in the cultivation of a large collection of roses, there has developed a white Niel, which, as did the yellow one, is certain to arouse much enthusiasm.

This beautiful white Niel rose possesses a wonderfully delicate white color, with a center at first of a fine yellow white, and afterwards during full bloom of a light cream color, with long, beautifully formed buds, that remind one of the Niphethos.

It will, therefore, by its remarkable beauty of color and elegance of form, surpass all others, and in its triumphal march through the world will be given a place in the garden of every friend of roses.

FRANZ DEEGEN.

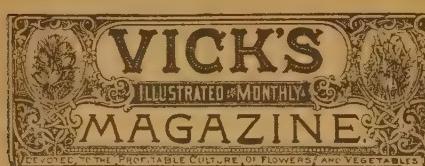
Kostritz, Thuringia, May 23, 1895.

#### A NEW PEACH BASKET.

The desirability of displaying fruit in an attractive manner has stimulated the inventive genius of Mr. I. B. Seeley, of Philadelphia, to make a peach basket which will allow the large end or top to be faced with the fruit. Accordinging to the *Philadelphia Record*:

He has made a double end affair, and as they are delivered to the fruit grower they have neither top nor bottom. Two sizes of circular wooden disks, which form the top and bottom, are shipped to the grower separately. The larger one of these forms the bottom while the fruit is being packed, but afterwards when the contents are to be displayed this is the lid and top. This larger disk is put in its place by means of grape basket hooks, which are a staple hardware. The selected fruit is then placed carefully in the basket, after which the basket is filled with fruit from a hopper.

These operations are performed by several women, and the basket of fruit goes to a man who is working a press by which the fruit is pressed firmly in place and held while the smaller disk, really the bottom of the basket, is nailed into place. A box thus packed will make just as fine a display as any California hand-packed goods, and is much cheaper and quicker.



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Average monthly circulation 1893, 200,000.

#### White Marechal Niel.

Almost with the same mail which brought a letter from Mr. Franz Deegan, describing his white Marechal Niel, came one from a lady in the State of Washington, describing another sport from the Marechal Niel, but which is apparently so like that of its European relation that a difference cannot be discovered from the two descriptions. Is it possible, now that the sports have commenced to appear, that there will be yet others?

The lady's statement is as follows:

"I have growing in my garden a new climbing rose, a sport of the Marechal Niel. I rooted it from a slip two years ago this spring; it has the fragrance of a Marechal Niel, the same outside petals, and is very double when in full bloom. Its buds are just the shape of a Marechal Niel bud, very large and perfect. Color of rose, creamy white shaded into a salmon buff. The foliage is the same as the Marechal Niel."

It will require time to learn whether either of these sports are possessed of qualities which will make them particularly desirable to the general public.

#### Cotton States and International Exposition.

The demand for space in the Woman's Building at the Exposition has been so great that the Woman's Board has been compelled to ask for an appropriation for an annex. The matter has received the favorable consideration of the Finance Committee and will probably be approved by the Executive Board. The activity and the amount of labor performed by the women of this department is phenomenal, considering the means at their disposal, and the results attained so far are more than astonishing. They have stirred so much interest in most of the States that an overwhelming demand for space has been made upon the management.

Mr. C. E. Harman, General Passenger Agent of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, has notified the Public Comfort Committee of the Exposition that his road has made a contract with the officials of the Grand Army of the Republic to transport 25,000 members of that order from Chattanooga to Atlanta on the 20th of September, the day after the opening exercises at Chickamauga National Park. The officials of the Southern Railway say that they will handle very large crowds between the same points at that time, and it is expected that together with the Confederate Veterans, who will meet the Grand Army people at Atlanta on Blue and Gray day, and with other visitors, the crowd on that occasion will approach 100,000.

#### La Revue Franco-Americaine.

French-reading Americans, in fact all persons who take an interest in literary and artistic movements in Europe and America, will greet with pleasure the announcement that there is now published a new magazine, printed entirely in French, yet designed especially for Americans. *La Revue Franco-Americaine* is an illustrated monthly magazine, the initial number bearing date of June, 1895.

Masters of French literature and the principal artists of France will alone be admitted as contributors. The various schools and systems of art and literature will be represented, and side by side will appear the names of Tolstoi, Goncourt, Daudet, Alexandre Dumas, Mirbeau, Clemenceau, Mallarme, Bourget, Barres, Severine, Hervieu, Mendes, Alph. Allais, Grosclaude, Courteline, etc., etc.

Among the artists will be Puvis de Chavannes, Whistler, Helleu, Forain, Caran d'Ache, while Princess de Chimay will contribute articles on fashion, and Princess de Polignac on artistic decorations.

The *Revue* will not be composed of extended heavy studies, but will contain short, vivid, vigorous articles on subjects of universal interest. *The Revue Franco-Americaine* will be printed in Paris, its literary editor being Prince Poniatowski, who is well known in America, and whose name and reputation will be sufficient guarantee of the worth, excellence and success of his enterprise.

The general agency of *La Revue Franco-Americaine* is in New York, 83 Duane Street.

#### The West Shore Railroad.

This road, which runs from New York to Buffalo, traverses for much of its way a route replete with interest in landscape effects and historic scenes. The General Passenger Agent, C. E. Lambert, whose office is at No. 5 Vanderbilt avenue, New York City, has lately sent out a hand-book of the route, entitled "Homes and Tours," giving an account of the specially attractive points on the line of this picturesque road. The manual is profusely illustrated with artistic and elegant engravings and the places and scenes are faithfully and graphically described. This beautiful brochure forms a desirable accompaniment to a traveler over the route or for one seeking a summer home in the highlands or river counties from New York to Albany. A list of hundreds of summer excursions is given, with the fares for the round trip, so that one may calculate beforehand his expenses and adapt them to the capacity of his purse. These excursions consist not only of trips on the line of the road, but side trips and tours in all directions. A very valuable feature is a list of hotels, summer boarding houses and farm homes, covering a wide range, and giving the charges per week or day.

Those contemplating an outing will do well to consult "Homes and Tours."

#### The Horticulturist's Rule Book.

In the preparation and issuance of this Rule Book six years ago, Mr. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University, did essential service to the horticultural community. He has now published a "Third Edition, revised and extended." This is a great improvement on the former editions, as all information on the thousand and one subjects of which it treats has been brought up to date. All the latest methods of dealing with plant diseases and injurious insects are described, and a chapter has been added on greenhouse work and heating. It is a book of ready reference for gardeners, plant growers, fruit raisers and farmers generally, and there is not one of these in the country but what should have it. It will be found of almost daily service. Published by Macmillan & Co., New York.

#### Scale Insects.

The rapid increase of the San Jose scale insect since it obtained a foothold in the Eastern States has excited considerable fear among fruit growers, and incidentally their attention is also turned to other species of scale insects which have caused some trouble heretofore, but without attracting general attention.

Dr. Lintner, State entomologist of this State, has just prepared a very full treatise on "The San Jose Scale, Aspidiotus perniciosus, and Some Other Destructive Scale Insects of the State of New York." It is published as a Bulletin of the New York State Museum, at the price of 15 cents.

The histories, descriptions and methods of destruction of these insects which may be employed, are very complete and practical and enables the farmer and fruit grower to deal intelligently in the suppression of these pests. Seven plates, with numerous engravings, illustrate the text.

#### How is Your Blood?

If it is poor and thin and lacking in the number and quality of those red corpuscles, you are in danger of sickness from disease germs and the enervating effect of warm weather. Purify your blood with

#### Hood's Sarsaparilla

The great blood purifier which has proved its merit by a record of cures unequalled in medical history. With pure, rich blood you will be well and strong. Do not neglect this important matter, but take Hood's Sarsaparilla now.

**Hood's Pills** are tasteless, mild, effective. All druggists. 25c.

## THE WHITE BAY TREE.

THIS native magnolia is very little known, yet its hardness and beauty entitle it to general recognition. It is found in a wild state in Massachusetts and thence southward to the Gulf of Mexico. It is a slow-growing tree and at best only reaches a height of about twenty-five feet. The leaves are for the most part elliptical in outline, the upper surface dark green, smooth and shining, and the under surface quite pale green. The flowers are borne singly at the bends of the shoots, and are about two inches in diameter, of a creamy white color and very pleasingly fragrant. These come in July, mak-

## THE DOUBLE SWEET PEA.

The prizes offered by James Vick's Sons for a name for the Double Sweet Pea, an account of which was given in a circular sent out with the *Floral Guide* of the present year, will be awarded on the counting of the votes on the first day of July. The voting has been in relation to the six names, Dawn of Day, Beauty's Blush, Maid of the Mist, Dorothy Vick, Bride of Niagara, and James Vick. According to the conditions the name receiving the largest number of votes shall be the name of the Double Sweet Pea. The person who votes for this name and whose ballot shows the number which



MAGNOLIA GLAUCA.

ing a marked contrast in this respect with the Chinese magnolia.

Although not showy, these flowers possess a delicate beauty and a delightful fragrance which ensure their admiration.

The tree is reported to be native of Missouri and no doubt will do well in the wooded regions of that State, but it is doubtful if it would thrive in the treeless regions further north and north-west. A tree fancier could not fail to be interested in it after seeing its handsome foliage and flowers. The engraving shows a specimen of natural size. It is not common in nurseries but may be found in those having large assortments of ornamental trees.

is nearest the exact number of votes cast for this name will be paid by the firm named \$150 cash. The person giving the next nearest number of this name will be paid \$75 cash. The one giving the third nearest will be paid \$50 cash. The one giving the fourth nearest will be paid \$25 cash.

The ballots received every day, from the time the offer was made until the present, have been carefully placed away in six separate ballot boxes, each one bearing its proper name. On the first of July these boxes will be opened in the presence of several persons, and the ballots carefully counted and the result determined, and a full account will be given in our next issue.

## FIRST FLOWERS.

THE crocus, scilla and chionodoxa all bloom at once and may be set together. All do well in ordinary garden soil, and the culture consists in letting them bloom, then swamping them with a great growth of cosmos, calliopsis, or what not—at least this is my process. The chionodoxa increases rapidly in size and strength, a single bulb with one or two flower stems the first year may have a dozen crowns by the third year, from little ones bearing a single flower to large ones having eight or more. No catalogue picture that I have seen looks like it at all,—at least not like *C. gigantea*, my only sort so far. The real flowers hang down so you only see the outside until you lift them up; then you will see the inside is much paler, with whitish stamens and a deep blue stripe through the center of each petal. Bell-shaped at first, they spread wider until nearly flat, their blue flowers seeming to grow deeper and richer day by day. The smooth dark green leaves grow larger after the flowers are gone, but soon ripen and go. The bulbs are small and you may be inclined to plant them closely, but eight inches each way is near enough,—the offsets will soon fill in between.

One variety of scilla has a branching stem bearing many small bright blue flowers; the young scape when first shown by the unfolding leaves looks like a twisted cord of the brightest violet or blue. Another one has large flowers on a plant lighter than the other in color. Both are lovely plants, hardy, and increasing in number each year.

The crocus should be too well known to need description here.

Another good plant is a small slender hyacinth, *H. campanulatum*, having pale lilac flowers of a most delightful odor, perhaps the musk hyacinth of some catalogues. It has bloomed for the first time with me this spring, a few days after the crocus and is increasing.

E. S. GILBERT.

## MEAL OF SUNFLOWER CAKE.

Sunflower cake has been found, especially in Russia, one of the best auxiliary cattle foods. As early as the year 1866 about 100,000 centners of sunflower oil (oil of the seeds of *Helianthus annuus*) were manufactured in Russia, and its amount has increased year by year, it being esteemed as a very palatable alimentary oil. The oil was formerly obtained by hydraulic means; the residual cake is harder than any other variety of oil cake, and for this reason apparently it has not found a wider application. Denmark and the northern countries import large quantities annually, as do also the eastern provinces of Germany, and the problem of its disintegration has been successfully solved by several manufacturers there. It is still unknown in southern and western Germany; now however, that it is put on the market in the form of meal it will doubtless soon find general application, suited, as it is, both on account of its composition and pleasant taste, for fattening cattle. The percentage of protein varies between about 30 to 44 per cent., the fat between about 9 to 19 per cent. It is possible to prepare two quantities, one rich in protein and poor in fat, and the other rich in fat and poor in protein. When, for example, the somewhat finely ground is sifted, employing a mesh of 1 mm., that which passes through is much richer in fat and protein and poorer in fat than the original, while the reverse is true of what remains in the sieve.—*Scientific American*.

**HYPERICUM MOSERIANUM.**

OW many flower growers have tried this pretty novelty? It is one well worth experimenting with either as a house plant or in the flower garden; for the latter it is especially desirable, being considered entirely hardy. A small plant sent to me a few weeks ago consisted of but one stem, about six inches in height, and this was crowned with a small green bud. It had been on the road quite a week but looked as fresh and green as though it had never been disturbed. It was placed in luke-warm water, and circumstances prevented its being potted for another twenty-four hours, then it was planted in a four-inch pot.

Common sense and past experience warned me to remove the bud, but it looked so fresh and healthy that curiosity prevailed and it was allowed to remain.

A day or two later it was placed in a south window where it has grown and thrived ever since.

The little bud grew larger every day and soon its shining golden-yellow was revealed, and one morning it flew wide open. A bright shining yellow disk, fully two and a half inches in diameter, and bearing a great many long yellow stamens. The color is very rich and pretty and one by no means common in window plants. After the flower faded it was cut off, and since then the somewhat slender plant has thrown out healthy branches almost from the root to the tip, thereby proving that it is of a spreading, branching habit, as the catalogue describes. I was rather skeptical as to this at first from the slender appearance of my hypericum:

The foliage is small and neat, of a dark green, and the branches are dark red. A well grown plant in bloom, I am sure, would be very handsome and showy.

MRS. S. H. SNYDER.

**LITTLE GEM CALLA.**

I SEE by your floral Magazine that a great many people are finding fault with the Little Gem calla. I want to give you my experience: About three years ago I purchased a Little Gem calla from you, and also one from The Dingee & Conard Co. I think that yours was purchased first. I potted the bulbs as soon as received in a six-inch pot, using good black muck soil mixed with clay. After potting I immersed the pots in the ground and watered and cared for the bulbs all summer. Just about frost I re-potted the bulbs in about the same soil and moved them to a south bay window, giving them plenty of light and sun.

As they were ever-bloomers I certainly expected blossoms in the winter. I watered the plants carefully and gave them what I thought was the proper amount of plant food; not a blossom put in an appearance.

The next spring I again immersed them in the ground, watered them well and kept them growing all summer, and last fall I re-potted

them in larger pots. By this time I had five nice plants. During the winter I watered them thoroughly with very warm water, and shortly after New Years buds began to appear and from that time until spring I was not without calla blossoms. The Little Gem is certainly a success, but I think they require age and plenty of hot water. My plants are now at rest and I certainly expect to have plenty of Little Gem calla blossoms next winter. I believe it is a good plan to keep the young bulbs growing until they get strong, after that I think that rest is an absolute necessity. H. M. HIGH.

Ovid, Michiran.

**CRIMSON CLOVER.**

**T**HE value of crimson clover is becoming so generally known that its use is rapidly extending. It is especially valuable to raise in orchards and vineyards to be plowed in to increase the fertility of the soil, and it is a valuable crop for spring fodder. There is no particular difficulty in raising it in western New York and Ohio and in similar climates westward. It will not do well on wet or springy lands. It should be sown sufficiently early for the plants to be come strong before winter sets in. It has been found that the most favorable time for preparing the land and sowing the seed is from the last of July to the middle of August. The ground should be mellow and the surface be made very fine; with somewhat heavy land this will require more than ordinary care and labor, but it will not pay to sow the seed on poorly prepared ground. The amount of seed required is about a peck, or fifteen pounds, to the acre. It can be sowed broadcast and then be lightly harrowed or brushed in. On exposed hillsides where there is danger from freezing and thawing, and thus throwing the young plants, protection can be had by sowing oats at the same time as the cloverseed. The oats will make a good growth and die down, when heavy frosts come in the fall, and make a light covering for the clover plants and save them to a great extent from injury in severe weather. About one bushel of oats to the acre is sufficient to sow for this purpose. The clover commences to grow in the spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and in six weeks or two months is a heavy crop that can be used for soiling, plowing in, or cutting as dry fodder. When sowed in orchards and vineyards for fertilizing, a dressing of superphosphates and potash may be applied in the fall in many cases with advantage.

**NEW YORK STATE FAIR.**

The annual fair of the New York State Agricultural Society will be held at Syracuse, N. Y., August 26th to 31st, inclusive. Competition is open to the world, and \$25,000 provided for premiums which are liberally distributed among all classes of exhibits. Wednesday, August 28th, will be Governor's day; August 29th, Syracuse day; August 30th, Grange day. There will be reduced rates and special excursions on all railroads.

The list of prizes and regulations, and any special information concerning the fair can be obtained by writing to the Corresponding Secretary, Mr. James B. Docharty, Albany, N. Y.

**ZAMIA INTEGRIFOLIA.**

**T**HE dwarf zamia, *Zamia integrifolia*, is a very rare and beautiful greenhouse plant. It is a native of the West Indies, whence it was introduced in 1768. The plant has a stout fleshy stem and pinnate fronds or leaves from one to four feet in length. It closely resembles the rare and beautiful sago palm, *Cycas revoluta*, but, unlike that, is of rapid growth and more easily cultivated, and therefore more valuable for amateur cultivators. When its merits become known it will be extensively grown and used for decorative purposes in the greenhouse and window garden during the winter, and on the lawn during the summer months.

The zamia needs a rich soil, well drained. When the plants are in a state of growth they should be given a warm and moist situation and be liberally supplied with water both overhead and at the roots, but in the winter or when they are in a state of rest they should be more sparingly watered, and given a cooler and drier atmosphere and a temperature averaging from 50° to 55°. In summer the plants can be set in the ground or plunged in any desired situation on the lawn or flower border, care being taken to supply them well with water and to take them up carefully and bring inside before cold weather sets in, giving them, if possible, a light sunny position. Well established plants may be readily obtained at moderate prices of our principal florists, and if well cared for will increase in size and value every year, and to amateurs and to those not familiar with the plant I would say that it is one of the rarest and most beautiful that they can add to their collection.

I should have stated that the plants must be repotted as often as they require it, and that in repotting care must be taken not injure the foliage and the roots. A rapid and uninterrupted growth is essential to the perfect development of the leaves. C. E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

**AZALEA INDICA ALBA.**

The hardiness of this charming plant in the vicinity of New York is remarkable, and it is surprising that it is not more generally used, for it is impossible to conceive anything prettier, either as a single specimen or in a large mass. Its pure white flowers, perhaps the purest white known, show up so vividly against the green grass or shrubs and make the contrast so distinct that it is a wonder the plant has been overlooked so long by the landscape gardener. The first cost being small, and the after-cultivation so simple, this azalea is well within the reach of all who have gardens, either large or small.

We are led to make this note by seeing a splendid group about nine feet in diameter, and one gorgeous mass of bloom on May 26th, in front of a residence on Ocean avenue, Greenville, N. J., where the plant stands without any care or attention and has so stood the severe winter. The residence, which is some sixty feet distant, shades the group from the morning sun, but this may be regarded as immaterial, as fine specimens are to be found doing equally well twenty miles up the Hudson River, and also in Greenwood Cemetery, where they are subjected to full exposure.—J. W., in *The Florist's Exchange*.

**SUMMER RAIN.**

Gently fall, gently fall,  
Dropping from God's hand,  
Blessed rain, blessed rain,  
Over all the land.  
Fill the cups of waiting flowers,  
Fall upon the fruiting bowers,  
On the field, on the plain,  
Fall, oh gentle showers!

Lightly fall, lightly fall,  
With thy power to bless.  
Every bud, and leaf, and germ  
Answers thy caress.  
Sunshine follows in thy wake,  
Fresh perfume doth nature make.  
Blessed rain, blessed rain,  
Where thy crystals break.

W. J. MEADER. SMITH.

**HYBRID PERPETUALS.—THE MOONFLOWER.**

I HAVE had of late some rose growing acquaintances who declared that their hybrid perpetuals were of no value as such, giving a good June bloom but nothing afterward, unless it were some distorted buds that came to nothing worthy of the name of rose.

I had for many years the best of success with my hybrid perpetuals and I began to wonder what had happened to these delightful guests of the flower garden, that they should thus have stinted their welcome gifts to humanity.

Having had, therefore, last summer a good border of these roses left under my care, I determined to try my skill once more in winning from them the largess they were accustomed to bestow. I did not stint the full June bloom, as in the old days I had been accustomed to do; indeed the June bloom was too far advanced when they came under my care for it to have been of service. But I left no leaf, bud or stick on the bushes that was not doing good service. The abundant broods of aphids that held their councils of war on every bud that swelled with welcome promise, were started out each day, among tiny floats of soap bubbles, on voyages from which they returned no more. My method of doing this, which I have always used, was to make a strong soap suds, slightly warm, and with a soft cloth or swab, to remove the insects from every bud or shoot where they were assembled, dropping the cloth each time into the basin where it was cleaned of its unwelcome burden. This is an easy method for a housewife who has these implements always at hand. I would use soap enough to do the work without any injury to the bud.

I did not wait till the flower had fallen; the moment I found its fresh beauty gone it was removed, that the bush might give its strength to the new blooms. With this treatment the abundance of all-summer roses was such that anyone who saw them would be convinced that these perpetuals, at least, did not belie their name.

It was a labor that repaid me in more ways than one. The rose border ran down two or three rods parallel with my sitting-room window and, when weary with my book or my sewing, I took my walk two or three times a day down the rose bed, returning on the opposite side so as to spy out the whole land, and entered the house with lungs filled with fresh air, and heart and brain refreshed with the beauty and fragrance of these royal gifts of nature.

Under my charge I had at the same time a

moonflower, the first I had seen, and we all gathered as the sun went down in the west, to witness its miracle of bloom. Surely no other flower ever burst so suddenly and so wondrously into angelic beauty as does this. Its brief stay was well suited to the delicate charm of its opening. We had only to say "They are coming,—they are here," to bring a group about us and then we drank our fill, for we knew that when we came again they would be gone.

I have wondered from what source this desirable acquisition came among us at this late day.

Years ago—in the early forties—I had a friend go out as a missionary among the Indians to some station located on the eastern spurs of the Rocky Mountains—I have forgotten the name of the station, it was an almost unexplored region in those days. During her first summer there she wrote me about a curious vine that clambered over the rocks, blossoming at nightfall and forming with its white flowers a charming drapery for the rugged mountain spurs. She sent me a pressed specimen of the flower, which, as I remember it, was much smaller than the present moonflower, but, if I am not greatly mistaken that was the name by which she said she had christened it.

I should be glad to know if the flower is really indigenous in this country, or if it came from the old world. M. E. G. AREY.

**SLEEPY GRASS.**

In some parts of Mexico, says *Pearson's Weekly*, there grows a grass which produces a somniferous effect on the animals that graze on it. Horses, after eating this grass, in nearly all cases sleep standing, while cows and sheep almost invariably lie down. It has occasionally happened that travelers have stopped to allow horses to feed in places where the grass grew pretty thickly and the animals have had time to eat a considerable quantity before its effects manifested themselves. In such cases, horses have gone to sleep on the road and it is hard to rouse them.

The effect of the grass passes off in an hour or two and no bad results have ever been noticed on account of it. Cattle on the ranches frequently come upon patches of this grass, where they feed for perhaps half an hour, and fall asleep for an hour or more, when they wake up and start feeding again.

The programme is repeated perhaps a dozen times, until thirst obliges them to go to water. Whether, like the poppy, the grass contains opium, or whether its sleep-producing property is due to some other substance, has not been determined.

According to Mr. Frederick V. Colvill, botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, this "sleepy grass" is *Stipa viridula robusta*, and he considers the statements here made regarding it, as reliable.

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MONEY.**

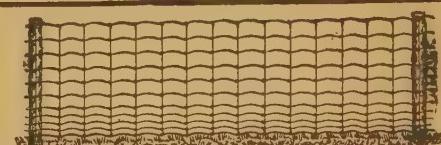
I have had such splendid success that I can't help writing to you about it. I have not made less than \$5, and some days from \$15 to \$25. I am really elated, and can't see why others do not go into the Dish Washer business at once. I have not canvassed any; sell all my washers at home. They give such good satisfaction that every one sold, helps to sell many others. I believe in a year I can make a profit of Three Thousand Dollars, and attend to my regular business besides. When a Climax Dish Washer can be bought for \$5, every family wants one, and it is very easy selling what everybody wants to buy. For particulars address The Climax Mfg. Co., Columbus, Ohio. I think any lady or gentleman, anywhere, can make from \$5 to \$10 a day. I would like to have your readers try this business, and let us know through your columns how they succeed.

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**FOUR OF A KIND.**

A certain railway official wrote the officers in charge of fencing on four great Railroads, where "the Page" is in use, asking their "honest opinion" as to its value. He considered the answer so very favorable that he gave a large order for the Road he represented. The replies were confidential, but he stated that the strongest endorsement came from where "the Page" had been longest in use. If farmers took such precautions, those who furnish "cheap" wire fences would go out of business.

PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.

**CONSUMPTION**

TO THE EDITOR—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy free to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post office address. T.A. Slocum, M.C., 183 Pearl St., New York.

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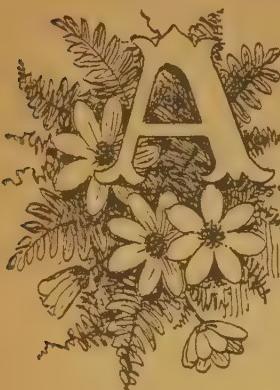
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## FLORAL NOTES.



MISTAKE is often made by the inexperienced in selection of soil for plants in pots. And often this is a fatal mistake. If the soil is too compact the water will not pass through it freely and the

plants soon become water-logged. A soil composed of about equal parts of decayed sod, decomposed manure and leaf mold and sand will be of the right texture.

Plants that have bloomed during the winter, as pelargoniums, fuchsias, geraniums, lantanas, etc., when summered over may be bedded out in the garden to remain till September. They should make a good growth and be in vigorous condition when repotted preparatory to removing to the house for winter blooming again. Two weeks before taking up cut around the plants with a long sharp trowel as close up to the plants as will make a ball of earth when the plant is lifted to fill the pot. This severs the larger roots from which new, fibrous rootlets will put out and the plant recovers sooner from the shock of removal than if transplanted at once from the bed to the pot.

An excellent stimulant for verbenas is sulphate of ammonia. Indeed it is a general fertilizer for most flowers, giving to the foliage a dark green, luxuriant and healthy appearance. Prepare it the day before using by dissolving one ounce of ammonia in two gallons of water. It may be applied once a week with safety.

The verbena is one of our most interesting and beautiful plants for either window or garden culture. It is quite hardy, and early light frosts do not injure it much. During the latter part of summer and in fall until freezing weather few plants afford more beauty than the verbena in its varieties of color. The verbena will grow and flourish under many different of conditions where less vigorous and aggressive plants utterly fail. New varieties, too, are produced from seed with greater ease than almost any other plant, rendering it one of the most interesting to the amateur cultivator.

In spring fault is often found with flower seeds because they fail to germinate. The seedsman is generally blamed when the fault is all with the planter. The trouble may generally be found in the lack of a careful preparation of the soil for the seed bed. And, again, in planting when the soil is too cold or too dry. All seeds are dependent more or less upon heat and moisture for their germination, and many of our flowers are very sensitive in these particulars. The soil for flowers should be rich, mellow and non-baking in the sun, and should be perfectly fined. For many of the finer seeds it is best to pass at least a portion of the soil through a sieve, especially the part that is to form the surface of the bed. A common meal sieve will answer the purpose, and after the seeds are sown

sift the fine soil upon them. If the weather is dry, saturate thoroughly a piece of old woolen carpet or other cloth and spread upon the bed, keeping it in place by stones or wood on the corners. As soon as the seeds germinate and send up tiny shoots remove the cloth covering and water sparingly next morning.

Geraniums are easily propagated by cuttings. Get a box four or five inches deep and any size convenient; those used by gardeners are handy, about 10x16 inches. Fill the box with light garden soil, coarse saw dust and coarse sand in the proportion of two of the former to one each of the latter. Make cuttings from good sized branches and insert three inches in the soil, firming it about the cuttings; set them three or four inches apart each way and when the box is full give them a thorough watering and set in some shady place. Water only when the top of the soil seems to be getting dry.

L. F. ABBOTT.

## TRUE AND TRIED.

NOVELTIES are well enough for those who can afford to experiment with them, but, if anyone wants a sure thing, no plant is more satisfactory than the geranium. The fact that it is common does not detract in the least from its beauty in the eyes of the true lover of flowers. As a house plant it stands unrivaled, while it has no superior in the flower garden. It keeps on in the even tenor of its way long after the "novelty" intended to supplant it in our affections is dead and remembered only as an unsuccessful experiment.

Graceful in leaf and form the geranium is a plant that will always be as popular as it is beautiful.

It would be difficult to find a prettier flower than that of the Souvenir de Mirande geranium. It is the queen of the geranium family, with its large clusters of rosy pink, white centered flowers. It is most admirably adapted to cultivation in the house, and has been a source of delight to all who have grown it.

The excellence of the General Grant as a bedding plant is too well known to need further commendation. It is a wonderfully free bloomer and unequalled if one wants a brilliant scarlet variety.

Mrs. James Vick is acknowledged to be the finest salmon geranium in existence. It is shaded beautifully and is one of the very best winter bloomers yet produced.

White Wings is a beautiful white variety, and Mrs. Hamilton is an extremely soft and pretty tint of pink.

King Olga is a richer and deeper tint of pink with the base of the petals white.

Magenta Queen is an unusually pretty tint of magenta. All of the above named are single geraniums.

If one prefers the double varieties get La Favorite for white, Madame Thibaut for deep rose-pink, S. A. Nutt for dark crimson, Robert Spark for a crimson-scarlet, and California for bright scarlet.

The Rose geranium is a wonderfully graceful and beautiful plant, while the ivy-leaf varieties are immensely satisfactory. The floral world owes much to the geranium family.

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**RICHARDIA-CALLA.**

The recent arrival in Europe of a large consignment of the yellow Richardia Pentlandi is a fitting opportunity to call attention to this and other recent introductions of a somewhat similar nature.

In Mr. Allen's valuable work on "Bulbs and Tuberous Rooted Plants" only one yellow variety is mentioned, viz: R. hastata. This is not, strictly speaking, a yellow variety, as the spathe is strongly tinged with green, but on account of its dwarf habit it has become a great favorite with European florists, although difficulty in propagation has caused it to be quoted at a very high figure. A sub-variety named R. hastata melanoleuca has an even more pronounced shade of green, but is chiefly remarkable for the resemblance the leaves of the plant bear to those of R. albo maculata.

Another variety with silvery white spots on the leaves is R. hybrida aurata. The spathe of this variety is of medium size, of a fine ochre yellow color, with a purple blotch at the base inside. At the Ghent International Exhibition this was awarded the first prize as the best new greenhouse plant from seed.

R. hybrida Elliottiana is a noble looking plant all the time it is in growth. The leaves are very large, of a rich green color, and covered with numerous pure white spots. The spathe is a pure golden yellow and very effective. It was awarded a first-class certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society of London.

R. Pentlandi is somewhat similar to the foregoing, but differs from it in having thick, large, dark green leaves without spots. The leaf stalks are mottled with dull red; the spathe and spadix are of a bright golden yellow, with a small blotch of dark crimson at the base inside. It would appear that this variety does not need so much water as the older kinds.

The list of yellow kinds is completed with R. Lutwychei (Pride of the Congo). In this case the large leaves are of a light green, without spots; the leaf stalks (petioles) are covered with hairs, and the spathes is a light yellow, changing to green on the outside, with a black purple blotch at the base inside.

Richardia Rehmani is one of the most beautiful of recent introductions from South Africa, and will be largely in demand when better known. In this species the leaves are lanceolate and of a very pleasing shade of green. The chief interest, however, attaches to the flower spathe, which is of a soft rose color; rose in the buds, afterwards changing into a soft rosy white. Awarded a first-class certificate by the Royal Netherlands Botanical Society.

It is a remarkable fact that since 1687, when the arum lily (R. Africana) was introduced into Europe, till 1859 it has been the only species of the genus in cultivation. The seven varieties described in this article, together with the well-known R. Aethiopica, Aethiopica compacta, Aethiopica grandiflora (a splendid improvement), Little Gem, and albo-maculata, bring the number up to twelve, all of them being of the easiest culture and of the greatest possible service to florists.

The prices asked for tubers of some of the yellow and the rose varieties are almost prohibitive at present, but if the Californian growers could be induced to take them in hand, they might soon be brought within the reach of all, and the demand would amply repay the initial outlay.—*Hortus Europaeus, in Florist's Exchange.*

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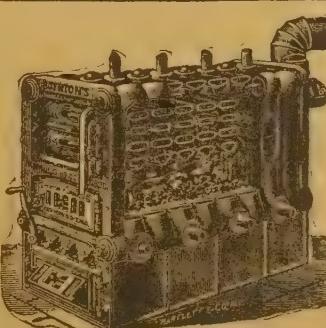
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**ONION CULTURE.**

The very best variety for this latitude (Paris, Ill.) is probably the large Red Wethersfield. South of the 34th degree of north latitude the Red Globe is preferred by many.

Don't plant the Spanish King or Silver King or any of the giant varieties, as the season is far too short here for them. They do very well in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona, and, in fact, any dry climate that is far enough south for them.

In Kansas and Nebraska very fine crops of the Wethersfield variety are raised by simply sowing the seed broadcast on sod. But this method will not do here, on account of weeds and the condition of the soil. The soil there is light and dry, while ours is damper and more clayey. A light, sandy soil is the best.

**TO CULTIVATE.**

Onion seed will germinate and grow at a lower temperature than that of almost any other garden plant. So don't be afraid of planting too early. Probably the best way is to sow the seeds in the hotbed early in the month of February. Then transplant in April in rows twelve or fourteen inches apart, three or four inches apart in the row.

For this transplanting the ground should have been thoroughly prepared by first plowing, then harrowing both ways until it was very fine and level.

Then use a marker that will make deep marks or furrows. Take up the plants and while they are fresh, drop or rather lay them in this little furrow with the roots down and the tops or blades lying up over the side—now push the other side of the furrow in with the hand or hoe and the plants are set. Water them once, say within three hours after they are set out, and there is little or no risk of their not living, as they are very hard to kill.

If you prefer to sow the seed with an onion drill, it should be done in time, so that after the young plants have come up a frost will come and freeze them off at the top of the ground. This freezing answers to the setting-out process and dwarfs the top and causes them to bottom better. To transplant is far better, as the largest yields are obtained in this way. It takes more labor, but the ease with which they are afterwards cultivated and the increase in yield will more than repay the trouble.

The after-cultivation should be frequent and shallow, using a common hoe or wheel hoe, and should be continued until the middle of July.

If fertilizers are used—wood ashes are as good as anything—they should be spread on the plowed ground and harrowed in before the plants are set out.

In September, or when the tops are all fallen down and show signs of full maturity by turning yellow and dying at the ends of the blades, pull them up, twist off the tops, and pile them in rows convenient to get at and haul them to the nearest market you can find. Or, if you wish to hold them, you should spread them out on a barn floor or some other place out of the sun, and allow the stems to thoroughly dry. Then they can be put away like potatoes.—A. E. Allen, in *Agricultural Epitomist*.

**THE SWEETEST ROSES.**

Roses bloom in the garden,  
Along the path and the wall,  
But the roses that bloom in my baby's cheeks  
Are the sweetest ones of all.

ROSE SEELVE-MILLER.

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**TURNIPS ON OAT GROUND.**

An account is given in the *American Agriculturist* of some of the farm operations of E. Peck & Sons, of Cook county, Illinois, whose main business is raising stock sheep.

These sheep breeders believe in root crops, and have been experimenting with different root crops and the best way of raising them. For three or four years they have been sowing turnips on the oat ground just after the oats were put in in the spring. They find the turnip plants at harvest time are tiny, spindling plants, but they live and when the fall rains come they grow and do well.

Last spring they sowed twenty-five pounds of turnip seed on 160 acres of oats. The seed cost them 25c. a pound, or an expense of 6 1/4 c. an acre. Their expectations were fully realized and in September the field was covered by the leaves. There were no weeds worth speaking of, since the Pecks do not raise weeds, the sheep having cleaned up the farms so they have no weed seed comparatively. Nor were the tops all they had. A two-bushel grain sack was shown that was about half full of average turnips. They were poured out for inspection and there were just seven turnips in all. They said they had all the way from 25,000 to 40,000 bushels. These were pastured by the sheep and they put about 10,000 bushels in their root cellars. They had no fears about keeping their flocks good enough and cheap enough with turnips, straw, ensilage, clover hay, and reserve blue grass pastures when not actually covered with snow and ice. They find the strap-leaf variety the best for this sort of turnip farming. Turnip seed may also be sowed in grain stubble and lightly harrowed in.

**HERBACEOUS PLANTS IN SUMMER.**

The great majority of hardy perennial flowers are natives of woods or grassy places where the earth is shaded from the hot summer suns. When they are removed to open borders they suffer seriously from summer heat. It is, therefore, good practice in these open sunny situations to have the ground mulched,—that is to say, covered with something like decayed leaves or half-rotted straw, or anything that will prevent the scorching rays of the sun on the earth. Herbaceous plants do not care so much for bright sun as they do for a cool soil at the roots. For the same reason a loose, open soil is better for growing herbaceous plants than soil of a heavier character, because having more air spaces, it is cooler. In short, it is a cool soil more than shade that herbaceous plants require. —Meehan's Monthly.

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**THE LILY OF THE VALLEY.**

Sweet gem of the garden! fair child of the vale!  
Were it not that thy perfume is borne on the gale  
Thy gentle attractions might blossom unseen,  
For thou lovest to lurk 'neath thy canopy green,  
Like a bashful recluse, all thy graces to hide,  
Whilst thy sisters around thee are flaunting with pride.

But thou little reckest how others may charm,  
No envy disturbs thee—no jealous alarm;  
Thy merit consists not in gaudy display,  
Thy sensitive form shuns the glare of the day;  
But drawn from thy humble, yet graceful, recess,  
Thou winnest all hearts with a magic address.  
Lo! a cluster of fairy bells comes then to light,  
In innocence clad with a vesture of white;  
How like tender infants they cling to their stem—  
That beauty ne'er wears so enticing a mein  
As when coyly retiring she shuns to be seen—  
Through her virtues alone let her charms be revealed,  
As the perfume first tells where the lily's concealed.

—Anonymous.

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## AGRICULTURAL ANTS.

Prof. W. J. McGee, of the government scientific corps, recently paid a visit to some very remarkable farmers in Sonora, Mexico. These are the so-called agricultural ants, which plant fields of grain and regularly harvest their crops upon which they depend wholly for food. In fact, should the crops fail they would perish of famine. On the other hand, the cereals that they grow have been specialized by cultivation, like the wheat and other grains of the human husbandman, and would quickly disappear if the attention of the insects was withdrawn.

The fields of the farmer ants cover scores of square miles in Sonora, a large part of which is quite densely populated by them. The home of a colony is marked ordinarily by a clearing from five to thirty feet in diameter, on which nothing is permitted to grow. This serves as a sort of parade and exercise ground. Around this clearing is a ring of luxuriant grass from three to twenty feet wide. On the seeds of this grass the insects subsist, planting it every spring and garnering the crop in the autumn. Across the rings which surround formicaries run turnpikes a few inches wide, connecting farm with farm for many furlongs.

In the region described there is practically no vegetation except the grasses cultivated by these ants. The latter appear to keep down and exterminate all other plants, such as cacti, grease-wood and mesquite. The plants naturally prevailing in that part of the country are entirely absent from the most thickly settled farming districts. In short, these insects have developed an art of agriculture peculiar to themselves, have made conquests of the land for their needs and have artificialized certain cereals as thoroughly as maize and barley have been artificialized by man.

"Thus," says Prof. McGee, "the rigorous environment of the desert has developed one of the most remarkable intelligences; and incidentally, an animal and a plant have come to be mutually dependent on each other for existence." The favorite cultivated plant of these ants is the familiar buffalo grass.—*Scientific American*.

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Pearline (<sup>use</sup> <sub>no soap</sub>)! It's too much to hope for—but the whole country would be the richer for it. 473

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## AMERICAN SYMPATHY WITH CUBA.

It is evident that the sympathies of American private citizens are strongly with the Cuban patriots. There is no reason whatsoever why we Americans should feel otherwise. We may doubt whether the Cubans have reached the social and political stage where they could carry on a very satisfactory government of their own. But we may also indulge freely in the opinion that they could govern themselves in a way that would conduce far better to their own advantage and progress than the Spanish way has ever conduced. Moreover, we would violate our own traditions if we did not hold stoutly to the view that no European country has any business to retain political control in any portion of the western hemisphere against the deliberate desire of the inhabitants. Our own grievances against England were quite sufficient to justify our assertion of independence; but Cuba's grievances against the greed, rapacity and misrule of Spain are a hundred times more serious than our causes of complaint against the rule of England. It is not for us at present to consider the question of Cuban annexation. If the island should gain independence there would naturally be a high degree of commercial intimacy and also a good political understanding between the governments of Cuba and the United States. If the war should be pushed by Spain to the extent of the struggle of twenty years ago, it would be entirely proper for our government to instruct Spain that our commercial relations and interests with Cuba were of more serious importance than Spain's political claims; and that under certain conditions it might be our duty to recognize Cuban independence and if necessary assist Cuba in maintaining her position. There is nothing noble or commendable in the history of Spanish efforts to coerce the Cubans, and good Americans from the Arctic Ocean to Terra del Fuego should be glad rather than sorry to see Cuba gain her liberty.—From "The Progress of the World," Review of Reviews for June.

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Ants, Agricultural . . . . .	148
Azalea indica alba . . . . .	142
American sympathy with Cuba . . . . .	148
Calla, Little Gem . . . . .	142
Clover, Crimson . . . . .	142
Development of the Pinnate from the Simple Leaf . . . . .	136
Early Vegetables . . . . .	137
Exposition, Cotton States and International . . . . .	140
Floral Decorations . . . . .	133
Floral Notes . . . . .	144
Garden, In the . . . . .	141
Herbaceous plants in Summer . . . . .	135
Horticulturists' Rule-book, The . . . . .	147
Hunting Ground, The . . . . .	140
Hybrid perpetuums—The Moonflower . . . . .	134
Hypericum Moserianum . . . . .	143
Incarvillea Delavayi . . . . .	142
Insects, Scale . . . . .	134
La Revue Franco-Americaine . . . . .	140
Letter Box . . . . .	140
Lettuce in Summer . . . . .	136
Lily, The Blooming of the . . . . .	135
Magnolia glauca . . . . .	141
New York State Fair . . . . .	142
Onion Culture . . . . .	147
Peach Basket, Anew . . . . .	139
Plants, Some Winter-flowering . . . . .	146
Polemonium reptans . . . . .	133
Poetry—The Harvest Moon . . . . .	133
If I had a Garden . . . . .	146
The Lily of the Valley . . . . .	147
Summer Rain . . . . .	143
Richardia—calla . . . . .	145
Rose, A white Marechal Niel . . . . .	139, 140
Roses, The Sweetest . . . . .	147
Sleepy Grass . . . . .	143
Sunflower Cake, Meal of . . . . .	141
Sweet Pea, The double . . . . .	141
Diseases of . . . . .	139
West Shore Railroad, The . . . . .	140
White Bay Tree . . . . .	141
True and Tried . . . . .	144
Turnips on Oat ground . . . . .	147
Zamia integrifolia . . . . .	142



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~~All~~ How sent.—These watches will be sent on the receipt of price, by registered mail, with the distinct understanding that if within three days from receipt (after showing it to experts if desired), the purchaser is dissatisfied or the watch is not up to the guarantee, the watch may be returned by registered mail and the full amount paid for it will be refunded, or allowed any other watch, at the sender's pleasure, unless the watch has been damaged while in possession of the purchaser.

— POINTS TO REMEMBER.—

No watches sent C. O. D. Every watch will be sent by registered mail in perfect condition. Each watch is inspected and regulated before mailing, but while only perfect watches ever leave the Waltham or Elgin factories, accidents are possible in the mails. The watch should be carefully wound and run when received, and if not in perfect order should be remailed to this office within a reasonable time, at the same time writing about it, when a new one will be sent. We guarantee satisfaction in every case, and if the subscriber to this Magazine is convinced that his watch is not as advertised, his money will be refunded within reasonable time on return of same by registered mail. All our watches are the latest product of the world-renowned Waltham and Elgin factories. All watches are stem-winders and setters.

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